ARRIVAL OF THE ÆTNA AT HALIFAX.

HALIFAX, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856, The Cunard screw steamship Etna, from Havre for New-York, put into this port this evening short of coal -having experienced very rough weather during the Her dates from Havre and Paris are to the 5th inst.,

three days later than those received by the Canada. She brings no tidings of the steamship Pacific.

We have received no English papers by this arrival, and the French journals contain no news of importance.

It was still current at Paris that Prussia would not

be permitted to participate in the Peace conferences.

Prince Gorchakoff, when signing the protocol accepting the Austrian propositions, demanded that Prussia should be invited to take part in the conference. Count Buol supported that demand, but M. Borqueney and Sir H. Seymour had asked to refer it to their Governments.

The acceptation by Russia of the peace propositions

had caused the greatest astonishment in Turkey, but at the latest dates the intelligence had not reached the Allied Generals in the Crimea, owing to the submarine cable in the Black Sea being broken.

Some disturbances had been created by the Bashi Bazonks at Shumla.

It was reported that a serious military conspiracy had been discovered at Madrid, with ramifications through the north of Spain. The particulars were not

In the absence of English papers, we have not a particle of any kind of news in regard to affairs in England, and no indication whatever as to the state of the monetary or commercial affairs there since the departure of the Canada.

In the Havre markets breadstuffs were declining. Confidence in the favorable result of the Peace Conference was daily increasing.

NAVIGATION EAST.

BRISTOL, R. I., Friday, Feb, 22, 1856.

The schooner Wonder, from New-York via Sandy Hook, and which arrived at Newport on the 14th, is still in the ice two miles below Bristol. Two propellers, with ice plows, are about six miles from Providence, endeavoring to reach that city.

Mount Hope Bay is open. Two steamers came from Fall River to-day—one returning, and the other, the Bay State, passing on, bound for New-York via Sandy Hook.

PROVIDENCE, Eriday, Ech. 22, 1856.

PROVIDENCE, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856. PROVIDENCE, Friday, Feb. 32, 1836.

Navigation is open to Fall River. The steamer
Bay State of the Boston, New-York and Fall River
Line, passed Newport about 3 o'clock this afternoon.
She will go outside of Long Island, expecting to
reach New-York in the morning.

THE AMERICAN PARTY IN NATIONAL CONVENTION.

From Our Special Reporter.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856. The National Nominating Convention met in Na-tional Hall, Market street, at 10 o'cleck. The reporters were freely admitted to the floor and outsiders generally to the gallery. Parson Brownlow of Tennesee called the meeting to order, and invited Isaac Hazelhurst of Philadelphia to the post of temporary President. L. H. Webster of Iowa, Samuel Law New-York, Dr. H. B. Brown of Pennsylvania, and S. P. Bankhead of Tennessee, were appointed Vice-After a grand row, riot and rumpus about the order

of business, a call of the States was made, and the credentials of the members presented. The following Committee of one from each State was appointed to examine and report upon the credentials: W. Emery, New-Hampshire; James M. Keith, Massachusetts; James E. Dunham, Connecticut; E. H. Grandine, New-Jersey; E. G. Nightingale, Rhode Island; Island Burrows, New-York; W. B. Allison, Ohio; S. Mere dith, Indiana; W. S. Wood, Michigan; J. M. Allen, Illinois; S. M. Kimhalton, Virginia; John Lockwood, Wisconsin; W. S. Brownlow, Tennessee; A. H. Kennedy, Maryland; Thomas Todd, Kentucky; W. B. Tower, Texas; R. M. Wood, California; G. B. Norris, Delaware; Lemuel Todd, Pennsylvania; P. A. Baker, North Carolina; A. K. Call, Florida; Percy Walker Alabama: W. A. Lake, Mississippi, B. T. Edwards,

There was a great deal of quarreling over the constitution of this Committee, growing out of contested seats and personal rivalries. It took half an hour of noise and confusion to settle who should go on from Pennsylvania. The Illinois men also got into a funny imbroglio. It seems that there are but three regular delegates from that State, but that Mr. Dannehower, one of them, and the mover of the Squatter Sovereignty Platform yesterday, finding himself in the minority, manufactured two more delegates in this city, and undertook to crowd them on the Conven tion and boost him on the Committee on Credentials. The other genuine delegates spotted the game and exposed it to the Convention to the great amusement of the spectators, and the confusion of the parties in the

The following Committee was appointed to report a permanent organization. It was selected one from each State by the delegates from that State:

cach State by the delegates from that State:

Anthony Colby, New-Hampshire: A. B. Elv, Massachusetts; L. S. Peck, Connecticut; J. W. Allen, New-Jersey; Oliver Chase, Rhode Island; Joseph S. Taylor, New-York; W. B. Chapman, Ohio; A. M. Phelps, Indiana; W. B. Wood, Michigan; John Durham, Illinois; A. R. Boteler, Virginia; A. G. Gillies, Wisconsin; Charles Ready, Tennessee; C. Pinckney, Maryland; P. B. Thompson, Kentucky; J. M. Elam, Louisiana; S. H. Branks, California; James Burney, Delaware; J. W. Kläinger, Pennsylvania; Robert C. Ewing, Missouri; Joseph H. Bradley, District of Columbia; E. A. Crudiup, North Carolina.

Arkansas, Texas, Maine, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi were not represented on the flaor, and applied.

Mississippi were not represented on the floor, and ap-

pear to be without delegates here at all, It was now 1 o'clock. The whole morning had been wasted, and an adjournment to 31 p. m. was then

In the Committee on Organization, there was a noteworthy division on the selection for a President. The New-York and new platform men put forward Erastus Brooks of New-York, the North Americans Ephraim Marsh of New Jersey, and the South Americans Andrew Jackson Donalson of Tennessee. After some debate the last two parties united in favor of Judge Marsh, whose sympathies are understood to be decidedly with the North.

Of the Vice-Presidents, Austin Baldwin is for Connecticut, Andrew A. Richmond for Massachusetts, James N. Emery for New-Hampshire, and Thomas

Spooner for Ohio. There is clearly a storm brewing for the evening session. Attempts will be made, both from the North and the South, to make a new platform or alter the one adopted yesterday. Many of the Southern delegates to the Convention are greatly dissatisfied with the results of the Council, and refuse to stand upon them. They demand the restoration of the Twelfth Section, or something akin to it. The North is equally carnest to reopen the matter. Mr. Perkins of Norwich, Conn., who made a striking and effective debut in the Council yesterday, commanding opportunity to speak, and speaking as no Northern man had yet spoken, on the question in issue, and in such manner as thoroughly to silence the opposition, will probably present the Northern demand, which is substantially the minority resolution of June, demanding freedom to the territories to which it was guaranteed by the Missouri Com-

As to the nomination, all is affeat. The probability is the whole thing will be postponed; but the Law men are making a dead push. The friends of the new platform are mostly for a nemination now; but both the North and South Americans are opposed to it.

From Our Special Reportors.
PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856. Chaos reigns this morning. The Northern cancus the June platform with the minority resolution, in place of the Twelfth Section. Beaten here, the pure North Americans will bolt. They are now in a false position and feel badly. They say they were betraved by Mus sachusetts when the game was in their own hands. President making is brisk. The extreme South oppose a nomination; but if forced to go into one they will support Fillmore. The Law lobby is large and indus

The Nominating Convention spent all the marning is arranging the preliminaries of organization, and adjourned at 1 o'clock to 3]. The Committee on Credentials has not reported, nor is the permanent organization made. Erastus Brooks will probably be the

[SECOND DISPATOR.]
The Committee on Organization reported at 4 clock, as I wrote in the afternoon, and additionally as follows: Vice-Presidents, Erastus Brooks of New York, S. H. Sheets of Indiana, A. H. H. Strait of Virginia, G. P. Norris of Delaware, F. H. Zollicoffer of Tennessee, A. K. Kennedy of Maryland, Thomas D. Clay of Kentucky, C. W. Bell of Missouri, Percy Walker of Alabama, S. H. Horton of North Carolina, Col. Logan of Arkansas, A. K. Call of Florida, and S. H. Webster of Iowa, Mr. Dunham of Connecticut was one of the Secretaries. The meeting would not act on the report, because the Committee on Credentials had not reported. A delegate from North Carolina moved that the name of Thomas Spooner of Ohio be stricken out and the name of J. S. Lippertt of Ohio, who voted for the new platform, be inserted as Vice-President. The motion was made because Mr. Spooner was suspected of being an Abolitionist. Messrs. Peck and Perkins of Connectiout, Mr. Ely of Massachusetts, Mr. Zollicoffer of Tennessee, and many other gentlemen, participated in the very refreshing shindy which occurred. The previous question on the motion to strike out Mr. Spooner's name was ordered, and the motion was lost by a very decisive vote. The uproar was intense. Mr. Zollicoffer attempted to get the floor, but was choked down. Parson Brownlow advised the members to keep cool, and wait till they heard from their betters-the Committee on Credentials-before they quarreled. Mr. Murray of New-York made a furious speech, asserting that no business could properly be done until the Committee on Credentials had reported. Mr. Zollicoffer said he could not serve as a Vice-President, as the Platform was understood and interpreted. He, as a Southern man, could not sustain it, nor act under it as an officer of this body. Mr. Eustis of Louisiana declined to be a Vice-Presi-

and Judge Marsh took the chair. He made a speech promising scrupulous fidelity to the party. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Campbell, delegate from

cessful effort to strike Mr. Spooner of Ohio from the list of Vice-Presidents. Percy Walker of Alabama refused to serve as a Vice-President. Mr. Dunham of Connecticut asked to be excused from serving further on the Committee on Credentials, because of the extraordinary course of the Southern members upon it. They had insisted on applying the old Twelfth Section in all cases of contested seats, and opening up all the old discussion on that subject. He stated that the Louisiana delegates had been approved by the Committee and placed in the rolls because they presented their credentials under the broad seal of the State Council, although they had repudiated the eighth section of the old platform. In this the Southern members of the Committee had voted for the admis sion of the Louisiana delegation. But when the Pennsylvania case came up the Southern men all changed front and voted against the admission of the Pennsylvania Delegation, although they came with all regularity and under the sanction and seal of the State Council. The Southern men had taken this position defiantly and on the ground that they would not sit in Convention with any man who had repudiated the Twelfth Section. Mr. Dunham was excused, and Mr. Peck of Connecticut

eccurred about an adjournment, in which a great many gentlemen participated; but the assemblage was so tumultuous that the reporters could catch but

from Wisconsin, made an infinite deal of sport by a most extraordinary and laughable speech. Every person in the Hall was on his feet, and all crowded around the speaker to hear and laugh. There was so much confusion that his remarks could not be correctly heard at the reporters' table. We judged from the uproarious laughter that his speech was a good specimen of Western Buncombe and pan-handled oratory. At 51 the Convention adjourned, to meet at Sansom

Both sessions to-day have been disorderly and disgraceful throughout. At no time did the Convention approach the dignity of a town-meeting discussion on the liquor question. The temporary Chairman was altogether unequal to his task.

gates present from each State as follows: New-Hampshire, 2; Connecticut, 6; Massachusetts, 13; New-Jersey, 7; Rhode Island, 4; Indiana, 4; Virginia, 15; Michigan, 5; Tennessee, 11; Wisconsin, 5; Texas, 4; California, 4; Delaware, 3; Florida, 1; Mississippi, 2; Maryland, 10; Kentucky, 12; North Carolina, 6; Ala bama, 2; District of Columbia, 2; Ohio, 23; Minnesota, 1; New-York, 35; Pennsylvania, 27; Arkansas, 1; Illinois, 3. Total, 277. Maine, Georgia, South Carolina, and Vermont, are not represented at all.

ana, the Protestants excluded. As to the Pennsylvania case, the Committee by one majority recognized the Johnston or anti-Twelf h Section delegates, the same received into the National Council. There was a minority report from the twelve Southern members against them and in favor of the Twelfth Section delegates. There was a very severe struggle over this case in the Committee, and they adjourned it to the Convention, where it immediately aroused much

in June as that under which this Convention was called and upon which it stands, thus ignoring on the part of the Southern members the new platform adopted vesterday. In conclusion, on this ground it proposed to exclude the Pennsylvania delegates who repudiate the Twelfth Section and give their seats to those who stand upon that section of the old platform.

cation of the American party and of the Union, and in defense of Southern views as to Slavery. He looked upon the Twelfth Section as the only bond of union in the American party, and appealed to the North and West to still concede it. Regarding that as a test, he favored the minority report in the Pennsylvania case. He said the South would not consent to support candidates in the Presidential election without a platform.

conservative speech, urging the adjournment of the Convention to July, when he believed they could come together and-disregarding all platforms-no elect. He derided any platform to put Presidential candidates upon. They had destroyed our best men and given us such as Gen. Pierce for President. They were pledges that the Executive was to use the patron age of the Government to effect certain legislative re we vote for for our highest offices. He carnestly ap-

There is a clean issue drawn in the Convention over the Pennsylvania contested case, involving apparently its continued existence. The merits and demerits of the Twelfth Section, and its validity as the bond of Minority Report—the former favoring the admission of

union of the American party, are directly before the Convention-both sides readily and apparently gladly ignoring the new Platform. If the Twelfth Section Delegates are admitted the North Americans will secede, and many believe the South Americans will do the same if the others are not excluded.

The discussion was continued by Mr. Webster of Icwa, who promised to speak but a moment, yet consumed a full hour in a speech on the Northern side without greatly illuminating the question or improv ing the temper of the Convention.

A great struggle for the floor ensued; and motions to adjourn till to-morrow, till July 4th, and sine die, were made in great number. The Convention refused

to adjourn.
Several Southern gentlemen, among them Pike of Arkansas, Eustis of Louisiana, Zollicoffer of Tennessee, have withdrawn already. The following is the essential portion of the minority, or Southern re-

port, in the Pennsylvania case: We regard this Convention as having been called for the purpose of nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, upon the and vice-fresident of the United States, upon the basis of the conservative and national adjustment of the vexed question of Slavery, embodied in the plat-form of June 12, 1855. And that no political organi-zation which has repudiated or rejected the substance and principles of that adjustment is entitled to repre-sentation in this Convention. Understanding that the delegates whose claims have been admitted by a delegates whose claims have been admitted by a majority of the Committee, were elected under authority of a body known as the Edic Council of Pennsylvania, which claims to be the organ of the American party in Pennsylvania, after having, as was admitted, repudiated the twelfth section of said platform we are of opinion that said delegates have no right to seats in this Convention. (Signed)

J. D. IMBODEN, Va. A. KENNEDY, Md.
W. G. BROWNLOW, Tenn., JOHN HAUGHTON, N.C., W. A. LAKE, Miss. B. K. CALL, Fis., W. P. SANTBAUDH, Texas, PERCY WALKER, Ala.
Mr. Campbell of Pennsylvania defended the claims of

Mr. Campbell of Pennsylvania defended the claims his delegation-the Anti-Twelfth Sectionites. Penn sylvania did repudiate the twelfth section. She wanted no plank on the Slavery question, but she could not stifle her feelings on the Kansas question. We will stand up for American principles to the death, but you cannot make us indorse the Kansas-Nebraska bill. If you shut out our delegation you substantially exclude nineteen-twentieths of all the delegates from the Free States. John N. Ashmead, one of the rival Nwelfth-Section delegates was allowed to represent their claims. He declared the people of Pennsylvania did uphold the Twelfth Section. [Cries of " No, no, and applause.] The Americans carried Pennsylvania when they stood upon National ground. They lost it when they repudiated the Twelfth Section. His statements aroused much feeling from the opposing side and the Convention was thrown into a terrific tumult. Lorenzo Burrows of New-York, in the Committee on Credentials, voted with the South against the Anti-Twelfth-Section delegation from Pennsylvania, but did not sign his name to the minority re

Mr. Ashmead was followed by Gov. Johnston of Pennsylvania in a calm and dignified and very able discussion of the Twelfth Section and its history, and vindicating himself and friends in repudiating it. Had not the State Council repudiated it he should have left

the American party.

Gov. Johnston was listened to with marked attention and most thoroughly presented his side of the question in issue. He concluded at 20 minutes past 1 o'clock, when amid much confusion a third report was made from the Committee on Credentials on the Penn-

made from the Committee on Credentials on the Pennsylvania case. It is as follows:

The undersigned, members of the Committee on Credentials, recognizing the right of the American party to select for themselves in the subordinate Councils of the party their representatives to the State and National Convention, and being fully convinced that in several instances in Pennsylvania the delegates selected by the people in their Congressional Districts have been superseded by the appointment of representatives by the State Council, in defiance of the will of such Congressional Districts, hereby enter their carnest dissent from the report of the majority of the Committee; assenting, however, to that portion of the majority report which favors the correctness of their return of those delegates selected by the State Councils for the State at large, and where the Congressional Districts failed to elect and present the following resolution:

Resolved, That the case of the Pennsylvania Delegates be referred back to the Committee on Credentials, to the end that he right of each contextant may be detarmined upon the prin-

Resolved. That the case of the Pennsylvania Deceases be if ferred back to the Committee on Credentials, to the end the the right of each contestant may be determined upon the pri-ciples set forth in the above Report and upon the facts of the R. N. WOOD, Cel.
LORENZO BURROWS, N. Y.
A complication of motions followed, and full onethird of the members struggled for the floor amid yells of "Order," "Order," "Order," "Down, Down," hisses, cheers, etc. Bedlam lasted ter minutes, during which the previous question was put on the motion of Mr. Ely of Massachusetts that the report of the majority of the Committee on Credentials be accepted, save as regards the Louisiana delegation. This was in amendment of the motion of Mr. Lake of Miss., that it be accepted save as to the Pennsylvania delegation. Mr. Ely's amendment was declared carried. Mr. Lake then insisted on speaking, although the previous question was still pending, and after the most terrific tumult yet experienced, he conquered a hearing. He spoke

delegates who repudiate the Twelfth Section had any right to this floor. The question then recurred on finally passing the vote to accept the report of the majority and save the Louisiana Catholic delegation. This lets in the Anti-Twelfth-Section men from Pennsylvania. The year and navs were called. Several of the Connecticut delegation declined to vote. The other New-England delegates voted Yea. Mr. Pickett of Tennessee, when his name was called, said he should withdraw from the Convention; that Southern men could no longer act honorable in it. Many of the Southern men

strongly against the Anti-Twelfth Section delegates

from Pennsylvania. He said none of the Northern

silently declined to vote. The Connecticut members changed from silence to Yea. The vote was declared at 2 o'clock, and was-Yeas, 88; Nays, 45. A motion to reconsider is now pending.

The Louisiana delegation were then unanimously admitted by a special vote. A motion to reconsider as to Pennsylvania was laid

on the table. Erastus Brooks of New York votes Yea, with

the promise to move a reconsideration to-morrow, and, if carried, to propose a compromise referring the Pennsylvania case back to the Committee, with such restrictions as would let in part of both dele-At 24 o'clock the Convention adjourned to 10 a. m.

of Saturday, in great disorder.

To the Associated Press The Convention this morning temporarily organized, with Isaac Hazlehurst of Philadelphia in the chair. Much time will be occupied examining credentials, the main difficulty being as to the admission of the rival delegates from Pennsylvania. The American Convention, after the appointment of

a Committee on Credentials, adjourned till the af-AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Committee on Permanent Organization reported

the following names of officers:
PRESIDENT: EPHRIAM MARSH of Now-Jersey. J. W. Emory, N. H.
J. C. Knight, R. I.
Thomas Sponer, Ohio
A. Kennedy, Md.
W. W. Danenhower, Ill.
Thos. H. Clay, Ky.
P. M. Wood, Cal.
C. W. Bell, Mo.
Andrew Stewart, Ps.
George Cull, Fla.
Lake, Miss. ARSH of Norskes, N. J.
Frastis Brooks, N. Y.
R. Zollicoffer, Tenn.
J. W. Sheetz, Ind.
A. H. H. Stuart, Va.
George Earlie, La.
J. P. Norris, Del.
John Haustton, N. C.
Col. Loran, Ark.
Percy Walker, Ala.
— Webster, Lowa.

The Report of the Committee on Organization was accepted, but no vote was taken on its adoption, in consequence of the Committee on Credentials not being ready to report. After much time spent in debate, the Convention adjourned. EVENING SESSION.

The Convention reassembled in Sansom street Hall, and the permanent officers reported at the afternoon session were elected and took their seats. The Committee on Credentials made a Majority and

Mr. Edie of Pennsylvania as a Delegate, and the latter, signed by the Southern members of the Committee, refusing to recognize Delegates from any Council repudiating the twelfth section of the platform of 1855. A debate ensued.

The Convention is still in session, dehating the Pennsylvania difficulty. The Edic men threaten to leave, is not admitted.

At a meeting of the Philadelphia State Council this evening, a resolution was unanimously adopted directing that, in the event of the Nominating Convention nominating for President a man; a man who affiliated in any manner with the Nigger Worshipper party, that the President and Secretary of the State Council call a meeting at the earliest possible period to take measures to call a Convention of National Americans, in tels city in August nevt for the purpose of nominating a candidate for said office who would support national American principles.

ANNIVERSARY OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The Anniversary of the Birthday of Washington was celebrated in this city and vicinity vesterday with greater celat than usual. The weather could not have been more propitious. The sun shone forth brightly, and the sky was cloudless; the atmosphere was mild and Spring-like, and but for the leafless trees and unsightly heaps of ice and filth that incumbered witness the procession and unite in the festivities of ernor's Island. The vessels in the harbor were decked in gay colors, and flags floated from all of the public buildings. Old Tammany loomed out large, and was decorated with more taste than we have ever before noticed. Several banners, with appropriate inscriptions, appeared in front of the balcony.

The Order of United Americans, with several mil tary companies from the different regiments of the First Division formed in procession about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and marched through the Park, where they were reviewed by the Mayor and Common Council. The procession, after marching through Broadway, Canal, Hudson and other streets, proceeded to the Academy of Music, where an oration was delivered by Daniel Ullmann, and other appropriate The Veteran Corps of 1812, under command of

Colonel Raymond, also paraded in honor of the day. They were reviewed by the Mayor, after which the corps marched up Broadway to Taylor's saloon, and there partook of an excellent dinner. Speeches were made, toasts given, and songs sung.

BANQUET AT THE ASTOR HOUSE.

The Anniversary of the Birth-Day of Washington was observed at the Astor House by a number of the friends of Civil and Religious Liberty, who claim him for the founder of their creed. At 6 o'clock in the evening about two hundred gentlemen sat down to a very elegant dinner. Gov. WEST presided, and J. E. Develin officiated as the President. The President was supported on the right by James T. Brady, and on the left by Wm. Cullen Bryant. The tables were spread with choice viands, rich fruit, and rare flowers, while lively music lent its charm to the occasion. Conspicuous among the decorations of the room was a fine portrait of Washington, surrounded by a scroll containing the names of La Fayette, Hamilton,

Dinner over, and the cloth removed, the guests pre-

first Association in the United States, in these latter days, to honor the memory of Washington as the founder and upholder of civil and religious liberty. He introduced

H. Clark, Governor of the State; Henry A. Wise, Senator Berjamin, Bishop Bayley of Newark, Fernando Wood Judge Ira Harris, Archbishop Hughes the Hon. G. M. Dallas, George Ashman, Ex-President Martin Van Buren, Gen. Scott, G. W. P. Custis, and

President.

recounted the names of foreigners who had occupied eminent positions, and performed great deeds in the army and navy of the United States from the time of the Revolution to the war with Mexico. 4. Washington and his Principles.

Mr. James T. Brady responded in a long and elo-

"whatever may be his religion or descent. In Know Nothings quote "Put none but Americans on "guard to-night." Would not Thomas Addis Emmet or Richard Montgomery have been safe Americans to place on guard the night before that eventful day on which West Point was to have been betrayed to the British? He continued: I discover no instance during the whole Revolutionary struggle in which the place of nativity or religious sentiments of those who took part in that momentous undertaking were ever investigated to determine their merit or fidelity. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who signed the Declaration of Independence, was a Catholic. Many of those who, with him, subscribed that instrument, were natives of foreign lands. Among the officers who assisted in achieving our independence, we all delight to honor LaFavette, De Kalb, Steuben, Gates, Lee, Kosciusko, Montgomery and D'Esting. Washington, in 1789, responding to an address from the Baptist Church in Virginia, utters this memorable language:

"If I could have entertained the slightest apprehension that that the Constitution framed in the Convention where I had the honor to preside, might possibly endanger the religious rights of any ecclesiastical society, certainly I would never have placed my signature to it. And if I could now conceive that the General Government might ever be so administered as to render the liberty of conscience, in secure, I be you will be persuaded that no one would be more scalions than myself to establish effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution. For you doubtless remember that I have often expressed my sentiments that every man conducting himself as a good citizen, and being accountable to God alone for this religious opinions, ought to be protected in worshipter, in reply to an address from the Israellites of

seigner. The Deity secondary to the accesses of the Source In conclusion, Mr. Brady read a letter from Washington in reply to an address from the Israelites of Newport, R. I., dated August 17, 1790, which had never before been made public, in which he expresses in the strongest and most emphatic terms his abborrence of civil and religious oppression and intolerance. His sentiments were the sentiments of those who had met to honor the day of his birth, and for their preservation he doubted not each and all of them were ready to make every sertifice. make every sacrifice.

The Press-Most valuable where it is most free, and joins of its own liberty because it labors for the liber

Mr. WM. C. BRYANT, in response, said: This toast is often given out at public dinners, but never with more peculiar fitness than now, when celebrating the birthday of the American Liberator. If this is to remain a land of Freedom, it must be through the Press. The discoverer of fire little

thought how great would be the results of his achieve-ment—what lives it would destroy, what lives it would save, what explores it would confer, and what misery create. When Jubbing two pieces of dry pine tocreate. When subbing two pieces of dry pine together, he liftle thought how mighty would be the results of the combination of that element with its antagonist, water—how it would send men speeding fast as the wind over land and sen. As little did he who invented the art of printing comprehend the mighty changes which this art would bring about, when he poured the lead into the molds how deadly a weapon he was forging against despotism. The great political changes in the Old World have all been brought about by he Press. Chemists talk of a universal solvent. What they have so long hoped for in the physical world was long ago found in the political world. That solvent is they have so long hoped for in the physical world was long ago found in the political world. That solvent is the Press. And yet I do not mean to arrogate to those who are commonly called the conductors of the Press, any peculiar virtue or wisdom. They, like others, are often moved by passion, by prejudice, by interest; yet do they accomplish the great work appointed them. The spirit of a large humanity speaks through their columns, though they may not themselves understand or may seek to prevent its utterances. A higher wisdom than ours balances opinion sgainst opinion, prejudice against prejudice, interest against interest, and secures the proud victory to Truth and Freedom. Wise, therefore, is the people who, whatever errors in legislation they may commit, leave untouched the freedom of the Press. With that all other liberties, civil and political—those which have been so nobly and eloquently asserted to night among the rest—are connected as the tree with its root. Destroy that, and they perish as surely as when you deprive the root of its life, the stem and branches wither. Leave or plant that living rod in the ground, and it will sprout into all other forms of liberty [Great applause].

8. The Clergy.

Mr. J. E. DEVLIN briefly replied, and gave The Hoolth of our Guest.

Mr. MEAGHER, in reply, said:

The Health of our Guest. Mr. MEAGHER, in reply, said: Mr. Meaghers, in reply, said:
With respectful pride I beg to acknowledge the invitation which has made me a guest at this festive board. With no less pride I acknowledge the very great honor which the call, just urged, has so condially conferred. But here, having hardly begun, I respectfully conclude. In this eminent assemblage of American citizens it best becomes me silently to participate in the homage paid to the founder of the great Commonwealth of which I desire to be a member.

nember.
7. The Judiciary and the Bar. Mr. FULLERTON, and Judge DEAN of Poughkeepsie

8. The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States

Mr. RICHARD BUSTEED eloquently responded. Other speeches and toasts followed, and the com pany broke up at a very late hour.

THE CELEBRATION AT TAMMANY HALL.

The Young Men's Union Democratic Club held

their celebration, as a grand mass meeting, at Tammany Hall. The building was brilliantly illuminated from basement to garret, while from the windows and front of the house banners were displayed in great profusion, covered with patriotic sentiments and inscriptions, intended to inspire and invigorate the as-sembled Democracy. The hall itself was decorated for the occasion with the banners of the Club, the insignia of the various States, and a large number of American and other flags. At an early hour the room was thronged, and precisely at the appointed hour the exercises were commenced by the band in attendance. When the music was got along with, Mr. John Cochrane called the meeting to order, and made a few preliminary remarks, after which the President of the Club, Mr. Spencer A. Cone, introduced General John A. Quitman of Mississippi, who made a very spirited and energetic speech. He pointed out at some length the peculiar points wherein the Democratic party difthe peculiar points wherein the Democratic party differs from the other factions of the day. It is, he said,
stable and reliable, unmoved from year to year by the
threes of party violence; it stands like a rock, faithful
to its principle, and even faithful to the best interests
of the people. He then gave his attention to the
Know-Nothings—declaring their pretensions to the
name American false and invalid. Said he, "I deny
"the right of the Know-Nnothings, or of any new-born
"modern faction, to take from wathe name of Ameri"cans. If any party is entitled to the exclusive posses"sion of that cognomen, it is the old Democratic party—
"the old guard which has stood round the tree of liberty
"since it first was planted." His denunciations of the
friends of "Sam" were particularly pointed and emphatic. He himself, he remarked, was one of the
standard-bearers of a party which means to secure his
rights to every citizen, whether born in Ireland or
America, and guarantees to all citizens their constitutional equality. Interested factions have lately,
too, raised another issue—the Slavery question;
and, although at the North this question has
been much misunderstood, he had no doubt the
Northern Democratic party will do full justice to the
rights of myself and my constituents. The slaveholding Democrats have ever been the truest friends of the
laboring man; the working men of the country have
never had a struegle for their rights and their enlarged fers from the other factions of the day. ing Democrats have ever been the truest friends of the laboring man; the working men of the country have never had a struggle for their rights and their enlarged privileges in which the Southern Democrats have not stood by them. And what is Slavery? When, nearly three centuries ago, the Almighty, in his infinite wisdom, opened this country for the home of Europeans, the white Caucasian race, a simultaneous decree of Providence introduced Slavery into parts of the land, your own State among others. Liberty is the natural state of the Caucasian people; it is their character, instilled into them by the Almighty; they want liberty, and they will have it. On the other side we see a people inferior in every respect, incapable of taking people inferior in every respect, incapable of taking people inferior in every respect, incapaous or taking care of themselves if left alone, but made much happier by being cared for by the superior intellect of the white man. In Slavery they are in their proper place; they are better off thus; I speak from personal experience. If I thought that my negroes would be happier as free men, upon the honor of a man, I would emancipate every slave I own; but I believe that my duty to you, my duty to my country, as well as my duty to this subordinate race, requires me to restrain and care for my portion of them as I would for my own children. I warn you against all attempts to allenate you from the Southern Democrats; they have ever been your friends, the friends of equal rights, and the friends and supporters of the Constitution."

Returning to the Know-Nothings, he gave them a few parting words, and yielded to the next speaker, who was introduced by the President as

The Hon. James L. Ork of South Carolina, who

The Hon. JAMES L. ORR of South Carolina, who

The Hon. James L. Orr of South Carolina, who speke in substance as follows:

"Our Democratic party is the only national party in existence; and now, in addition to our ancient foes, we have another party to oppose—the Know-Nothings, and still another, the Black Republicans—but if our party is true to itself we will carry 26 States of the Union. If you will take care of Black Republicanism in the North we will take care of Know-Nothingism in the South—but you must try and heal your difficulties. At our coming National Convention in Cincinnati, for the aomination of President and Vice-President, what a picture will New-York present—two sets of delegates, both claiming recognition and influence there. Men of New-York, spare the Democratic party the shame of such a sight; overlook past differences and send a union delegation. Our opponents, the Know-Nothings, say that Americans must rule America. I should like to know who else does rule America. There is not a single foreigner in the United States Senate; your President, Vice-President and Cabinet are Americans every one—this cry is all clap-trap to seduce you from your allegiance. They also make war upon the religion of our foreign is all clap-trap to seduce you from your allegiane. They also make war upon the religion of our foreign They also make war upon the religion of our foreign born citizens, but so far as the question of religion is concerned, it is best left entirely out of politics. They tell you the country is in danger from the Pope—but the Pope only holds his own position by the aid of French bayonets. He can hardly take care of his own little principality; how then can any man of common sense say that America is in danger from the Pope? A considerable degree of agitation has arisen upon the Kansas and Nebraska question. I do not propose to enter into an argument upon Slavery; what I wish to say is this: It has been often asserted that the South wants the North to legislate Slavery into Kansas. I pronounce the statement false—we want to do exactly what the Constitution requires us to do—throw open the Territories to all immigrants, and let them legislate for themselves. We only ask a fair change; let terri-Territories to all immigrants, and let them legislate for themselves. We only ask a fair chance; let territory that belongs to all of us, be open to all of us. In the coming Presidential election, let me warn you against anything like a sectional contest. If a sectional President be elected, I firmly believe that it will be impossible to preserve the Union through his administration. And who will suffer by such a catastrophe? The North; New-York will suffer; your own city will suffer most of all. Unite against our enemies; bury all jealousies; fraternize, harmonize, and go forth to battle banded indissolubly together, and your victory is certain, and your conquering flag will wave in triumph over every stronghold of the enemy in all the land.

After he had concluded, the Hon, Tuowas G. Danders and strong the second of the second o After he had concluded, the Hon. THOMAS G. DA-

vinsor of Mississippi was announced. He dilated for some time upon the transcendent virtues and brilliant past achievements of the Democratic party, and also "because a man is a foreigner, because he happens to "be born in another country, he may not, if he chooses, "become as good a citizen as any of us, is a traitor "and should be hung upon the highest tree." He cauched lightly upon the Siavery question, and proceeded to point out what the Southern Democrate have done for the party, and for the country, asking, "What has the South done that you should array yourselves against her?" He, like the former speakers, concluded by exhorting the party to heal and dissensions, and not to wreck their common interests upon any sectional question. upon any sectional question.

The President then announced that Gov. Horatio Seymour would make a speech which would conclude the meeting. His Excellency made his appearance, and made a few brief remarks, which were fitting and

appropriate to the occasion.

The attendance at this demonstration , as unusually large, and the audience was very enthusiastic, the speakers being frequently interrupted by rhement cheers and plaudits.

After three cheers each for "the next nomings of the Democratic National Convention, whoever he may be," for Gov. Seymour, for the South, for Old T. unmany, and for the Young Men's Democratic Uni-Club, the assembly adjourned.

COMPLIMENTARY BANQUET OF THE NEW-YORK CITY GUARD.

The New-York City Guard, Captain N. B. Laball, gave a complimentary banquet at the Collamore House last evening to Capt. Thomas T. Ferris and Lieut, L. D. Bulkley, as a testimonial of the high regard and character cherished for them by the corps, and as a token of gratitude upon their retiring for their respective offices.

guests assembled in one of the parlors of the hotel, and shortly after proceeded to the spacious dining-hall, where a magnificent banquet had been prepared by mine hosts, G. M. & William Perry. The hall was tastefully decorated with flags and banners, on one side over the head table appearing a small shield surmounted by an eagle, the names of Ferris and Bulk-lev. The flag presented by the New-England Guard of Boston was suspended at the head of the room. Capt. Labau presided, and on either side of him was seated Ex-Capt. Ferris and Ex-Licut. Bulkley, Col. Van Buren, Major J. Stagg, Mr. Blatchford, and others.

Committee of the two Boards of the Common Council to celebrate the Anniversary of the Birthday of Washington by a banquet at the Metropolitan Hotel.

The members assembled in the reception room about seven o'clock, and at 8 o'clock proceeded to the spacious dining hall of the Metropolitan, where the tables were arranged for the guests. All the luxuries of the season were on the table, prepared under the auspices of the Mesers. Leland. The following pieces of ornamental pastry were arranged on the table:

Geddees of Justice. Gothic chapel.

Pocahoutas. Grand fancy temple, Greek style. Persian tower.

Grand sagar temple. Temple of Liberty.

The Mayor presided on the occasion. On either side were Isaac O. Barker and Benjamin F. Pinckney, the Presidents respectively of the Board of Aldermen and Board of Councilmen, and the members of the Committee.

of the Committee.
When the dinner had been duly discussed, the fol-

tiny of mail.
To the various toests Mayor Wood, Isaac O. Ban-

To the various tosts Mayor wood, Isaac O. Bar-Rer, President of the Board of Aldermen; Benjamin F. Pinckner, President of the Board of Councilmen; Ald. Herrick, Ald. Ely, Councilman Swas, Ald. Vocehis, George W. Mortos, Ald. Clancey re-

[ByTelegraph.] PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856. There was a splendid display of the military here

The Anniversary of Washington's birth is generally being observed here to-day. Salutes are ordered to be fired and bells rung at morning, noon, and night. The Custom-House, Banks, and many of the stores

are closed. The features of the evening are an oration on the life and character of Washington before the Merca Library Association, and a grand soirce of the Americaus in Fancuil Hall.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856. The celebration to-day was a spirited affair; the procession it is estimated was six miles in length, the military display very large. To-night there is a general illumination and fireworks. No accidents.

MARINE AFFAIRS.

LAUNCH OF THE KIAGARA.

121 o'clock, if wind and tide should prove favorable.

agreed to go into the Nominating Convention and seek the postponement of a nomination; then denying the right of the Council to make a platform, will propose

President of the Convention.

The permanent organization was then put in power,

Mr. Horton of North Carolina made another unsuc

was appointed in his stead. A long and very tumultuous debate, or rather melee.

little of what was said.

Col. Hughes, a begus-American and backwoodsman

The Committee on Credentials reported the dele-

The Catholic delegates were admitted from Louis

The minority report recognized the platform adopted

Percy Walker of Alabama spoke in eloquent glorifi-Austin Baidwin of Connecticut made a vigorous

nate candidates whom we could all stand up for and sults. He would leave legislation to Congress. There we will fight out our differences. But do not let us bring them into the election of President, and make them of more importance than the characters of the men whom pealed to the gentleman who had introduced this minority report—this bone of contention—to withdraw it and give us peace.

the streets, we might have imagined ourselves in the iap of Spring. From an early hour in the morning until a late hour in the afternoon martial music resounded throughout the city. Hundreds of men, women and children thronged the streets in order to the occasion. The Park was also thronged, and the balconies, steps and windows of the City Hall were filled with women and children. At sunrise the National salute was fired from the Battery and Gov-

The American Protestant Association turned out in honor of the day, and paraded through the lower part of the city, and proceeded to Brooklyn, where they marched through the principal thoroughfares. They made a good turn out, and attracted much attention.

Pulaski, Steuben, and Montgomery.

pared themselves for the intellectual feast. The PRESIDENT, in a brief speech, said this was the

Mr. WM E. ROBINSON, who read letters from Myror

The regular teasts were then announced by the

President.

1. The President of the United States.
Capt. RYNDERS responded.

2. The Governor of the State of New York.

3. The drawy and Nary of the United States.
Gen. WARD B. BURNETT, briefly responded. He

quent speech, which was received with great applause. The aim of his address was to show that Washington had ever been the friend of civil and religious liberty. In doing this he mainly relied upon the writings of that eminent patriot and statesman. Washington aided in the work of importing Palatines, and even paupers to settle Ohio, as may be seen by his letters to Jas. Tilghman, Ohio, as may be seen by his letters to Jas. Tighman, February, 1774, and in 1792 he wrote to the Commissioner of the Federal District, recommending him to send an agent to Germany to induce emigration from that country. How does this accord with the Know-Nothing version of his acts and policy? In his letter to Bendiet Arnold, in 1775, when about to invade Canada, he strongly urges him to respect the religion of that country, and to protect and support the free exercise of it, and the undisturbed enjoy ment of the rights of conscience by to protect and support the free exercise of it, and the undisturbed enjoyment of the rights of conscience by the people, to the full extent of his authority. This he also embodied in an address to the people of Canada, in which he says: "The cause of America and "of Liberty is the cause of every American citizen, "whatever may be his religion or descent." The Know-Nothings quote "Put none but Americans on "guard to-night." Would not Thomas Addis Emmet The Richard Montaguery have been safe Americans to

past aemevements of the Democratic party, and also in demonstrating that it is a party and not a mere fac-tion. This faction, he said, has carried the number of States prosperously from thirteen States to thirty-one, and we have territory enough to make just as many more. He made some very severe remarks against the "Dark Lanterns," in the course of which he made use of this sentence: "The individual who says that

At 9 o'clock the members of the corps with invited

others.

The company having done instice to the yiands, the cloth was removed, when Adjutant W. H. Draffe of the Committee of Arrangements called the corps to order, and announced that he had been deputed to read the regular toasts as follows:

1. The Memory of Washington—His name needs no word of praise. The Republic and her history is his monument and order.

1. The Memory of Probability of the monument and eulogy.
2. Our Guest, Capt. Thomas T. Ferris—A soldier, a gentleman and a scholar. With no pronder title can we adom thee; thou hast raised a monument of gratitede in the hearts of thy comrades, which time may strengthen—not efface.
3. Our Guest, Lieut. L. D. Bullety—Bound to the City Guard, by the memory of twelve years—the Old Guard permits him to give up her sword, but not her affection. The one may pease from hand to band, but the other is tied to her heart-strings and

is "not transferable."

4. Our new Commander, Capt. N. B. Labau—The unanimous choice of the City Guard—may his career continue as brilliantly as it has begun, and may his genial influence ever control the destiny of the corps.

5. Our Brother Soldiers of Albany, Troy, Montreal, Perfoland, Baston and Providence—Each the rival of the other in nobic hospitality. May they never know any harsher warfare. The worst we can say of them is, they will ever began generosity it helr efforts to serve their guests. We know, for we have bed them all.

6. Our Folunter Militia—

Like the tall mast which bears our flag on high.

It grew in our soil, and ripened in our say.

7. Our deceased Captain—Capt. Win. M. Meardle—Rest in peace, for around that resting place will the affections of the City Guard ever lie lingering, like Adam near lost Paradise.

8. Absent Members of the New York City Guard—Wherever they go, they honor the Company which now remembers them.

19. The Press—The bulwark of a nation's freedom—may it be controlled without fear and without repreach.

To the first regular toast, Capt. Lanau briefly responded—in the course of his remarks paying a high compliment to the guests of the occasion, Capt. Ferris and Licut. Bulkley.

The second regular toast having been read, Capt. Alexander Hannard as soldier, a gentleman, and a scholar.

Capt. Ferris, rightly eulogizing him as a soldier, a gentleman, and a scholar.

Capt. Ferris rose amid vociferous cheers to respond to the sentiment. He briefly alluded to the past, and reviewed many of the pleasing moments that he had passed with the Now-York City Guard as their commandant.

To the fourth regular toast Capt. Labau briefly responded, returning thanks for the high compliment haid him, and in conclusion introduced Major Junius T. Stagg of the New-York Light Guard, who was received with nine cheers.

Mr. Stagg of the New-York Light Guard, who was received with nine cheers.

Mr. Stagg of the New-York Light Guard, who was received with sine cheers to montreal, Portland, Boston,

To the sixth regular toast Col. M. M. VAN BERKS responded.

To the seventh toast Private BLATCHFORD responded, in the course of his remarks paying a high tribute to the memory of Capt. McArdle.

To the eighth toast Surgeon Fisher responded, and Mr. Tond to the ninth.

Volunteer toasts were then given and responded to by various members of the corps. The festivities were kept up until a late hour and were much enjoyed by all present.

CELEBRATION BY THE COMMON COUNCIL. Arrangements had been made by the joint special

The members assembled in the reception room about

When the dinner had been duly discussed, the fol-lowing regular toasts were announced:

1. Memory of George Wenhington—Pater Patrix. (In silence.)

2. The President of the United States.

3. The Governor of the State of New York.

4. The Mayor of the City of New York.

5. The Twenty-second Lay of February—Rendered sacred to the ensisted of all nations, as the birthday of Washington.

6. The City of New York—The commercial center of the Western metropolis.

6. The City of New York—The commercial center of the Western metropolis.
7. Civil and Religious Liberty—The last hope of all men.
8. The Attributes of Freedom, as exemplified in the Farewell Address of the Father of our Country.
9. Science and Mechanism—Their rapid progress is a harbinger of the future glory of America—The Councilman Oris D. Swan responded.
10. The Statemen of America—The history of the world has produced no greater.
Responded to by Ald. Peter P. Voornis.
11. The Executive and Legislative Departments of the City of New York.
12. The Press—The Archimedean Lever of a Republican Government.

nment.
13. Woman—The genius of whose inspirations controls the

o-day, in honor of the birthday of Washington. Flags are displayed from all public buildings, &c. Boston, Friday, Feb. 22, 1856,

We learn from her constructor, George Steers, that the steam frigate Niagara will be launched to-day at